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SUBJECT: ESTONIA DISTURBED BY UNHCR 5TH SESSION

Ref: A) STATE 91539 B) STATE 91929

(SBU) On July 5, we delivered reftel points (A and B) to Veiko Kala, Acting MFA UN Human Rights Council (UNHCR) Desk Officer. Kala said that like the U.S., the Government of Estonia (GOE) is deeply disappointed and disturbed by the UNHCR's 5th session. He agreed that many EU member states were complicit by their action and/or inaction in Geneva. However, Kala said, there were a number of other EU member states, like Estonia, that were deeply unhappy about what took place. The GOE views allowing the mandate for country specific rapporteurs to expire, especially in the case of Belarus, as "deeply regrettable" and a setback for the UNHCR's credibility. However, while the GOE shares the same concerns as the U.S., Kala said that the GOE believes it could have been worse compared to the motions put forward in the 2nd session. The GOE will continue pressing on the margins in UN and EU fora and argue against any further dilution of the UNHCR.

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